

# Happy Holidays!



## Foggy Bottom News

December 1996-January 1997

Published by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom and West End

Volume 39, No. 3

### GW Hospital Bonds With OrNda

By Kate Kennedy

On Saturday, October 26, GW officials cut a deal with OrNda HealthCorp. over the future of GW Hospital, sparking reactions of relief, optimism, and some trepidation from the students, hospital employees and the surrounding Foggy Bottom community.

After months of negotiations, GW officials and the for-profit private corporation converged to form a joint-ownership plan for the hospital, allowing OrNda 80 percent ownership and GW 20 percent ownership.

OrNda, the third largest hospital management company in the United States, is owned by investors. Its headquarters are in Nashville, Tenn. but it offers a wide range of inpatient and outpatient health care services through 50 other hospitals and other related facilities. OrNda's influence stretches across 15 states, primarily located in Southern California, South Florida, and Phoenix, Arizona. In 1995, the company tallied \$1.8 billion in total revenues.

The arrangement between GW hospital and OrNda will entail equal board representation and reserve powers for the school. Retainment of reserve powers means that the University will have veto power over any decision that would affect the school's academic mission.

In regards to board representation, Richard James, the media manager for the Medical Center, views the "50-50" set-up as an important component in maintaining the hospital's mission of education, research, and service.

"We are thrilled about having equal representation on the board," said Mr. James. Oftentimes, when a trade-off is made between a non-profit hospital and a large for-profit corporation, in the midst of exchanging dollars, the hospital will lose its decision-making powers.

But, according to Mr. James, "they (OrNda) were willing to make us equal partners." Mr. James views it as "super protection" over the University's mission and academic goals.

Exactly how this partnership will affect the hospital's civic groups, employees, and the medical students is uncertain right now, although many seem to view it as a positive act. According to Mr. James, OrNda's track record has been one of deference to the local interest.

"They really do defer to the local hospital and organizations," said Mr. James. Therefore the daily duties of the various groups and volunteer organizations within the hospital will be unaffected.

In addition, substantially all hospital employees will retain their jobs which, according to Mr. James, is "welcome news to them." Furthermore, no elimination of the services that the hospital offers is expected.

Archie Davenport, who has been the hospital's concierge for the past two and a half years, is relieved with the latest developments concerning the hospital's future.

"The act is finally over," he says. "We have a sense of direction now. Everyone is optimistic that I spoke to."

*continued on page 8*



Trick-or-treaters from Natural Day Care are treated at the Excelsior on K Street

### All Politics Are Local

Believing that heading to be true, following are the exact votes for the Advisory Neighborhood Commission races in 2A. At least one candidate, Sara Goodyear, a write-in candidate for Single Member District 2A05, is a student at George Washington University.

<b>ANC-2A01</b>	
SWIFT, Jean	82
BARANANO, Susana	72
Write-in	11
<b>ANC-2A02</b>	
GEROE, Michael	360
Write-in	39
<b>ANC-2A03</b>	
TYLER, Maria	441
Write-In	39
<b>ANC-2A04</b>	
MOZER, Bernard	290
BARNHARD, Dale	248
Write-in	13
<b>ANC-2A05</b>	
MILLER, Dorothy	190
Write-in	123
<b>ANC-2A06</b>	
MADDUX, Sara	83
Write-in	19

### Barry Unable to Attend

Mayor Barry's office advised FBA late Friday evening, November 15, that he would be unable to attend and speak to the November 25 meeting as he had planned.

The mayor's office had contacted FBA in October, requesting an opportunity to discuss the American Red Cross Building as well as several other items.

His office has arranged for representatives to cover three subjects: Campus Plan zoning regulations; the American Red Cross building; and proposed parking changes in the M Street area, due to the Whitehurst Freeway construction.

### Foggy Bottom Rich In Holiday Services

Foggy Bottom's churches provide a rich tapestry of services for the next several weeks, the busiest period in our year for religious observances. Each of the five local churches schedules services for Thanksgiving and for Christmas and New Year's, as well as offering special holiday events.

The churches and their phone numbers are listed below for your convenience in getting information on their services.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 728 23rd Street, N.W. 333-3985  
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2430 K Street, N.W. 337-2020  
 St. Stephen Martyr (Catholic) Church, 2346 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 785-0982  
 The United Church (United Methodist and United Church of Christ Congregation), 1920 G Street, N.W. 331-1495 (English and German services)  
 Western Presbyterian Church, 2401 Virginia Avenue, N.W. 835-8383  
 A schedule of Christmas services available at press time is listed on page 5.

### FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

Monday, November 25, 1996  
 Wyndham Bristol Hotel  
 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
 7:30 p.m.

(Next Meeting: Monday, January 27, 1997)





## Doesn't Hide His Thinking

I just read the November issue of the *Foggy Bottom News*, and for the life of me I can't understand why you're content to publish rewarmed material that has previously appeared in the *GW Hatchet*. If the *Foggy Bottom News* wants to interview me, all they have to do is send somebody with questions and a tape recorder. I've never ducked a reporter from the *Foggy Bottom News* or hidden my thinking from our community, and to suggest otherwise is improbable on its face.

Unlike "The Observer" I say what I say fearlessly and for attribution. I don't hide behind silly disguises or attempt to conceal my identity. When "The Observer" is willing to get out from behind the mask and to print pictures of the beautiful landscaping that GW has provided to the Foggy Bottom neighborhood in an effort at fair reporting, he or she will deserve some respect and can join the

many other Foggy Bottom and West End residents who've been working with GW students and administration to make this a community we can all take even more pride in.

Stephen Joel Trachtenberg

President

The George Washington University

## Good Far Outweighs the Bad

I normally don't respond to anonymously written articles like "The Observer" in last month's issue of the *Foggy Bottom News*. However, the neighborhood described in the article is so far removed from the neighborhood where I spend a great deal of my life, I can't resist. The article was filled with doom and gloom, pictures of a trashed neighborhood, vignettes of insolent, inconsiderate neighbors. It was apocalyptic writing at its best.

As I get my morning coffee at the 7-11, walk to the gym, go over to visit a congregant in GW Hospital or listen to our members talk about their apartments or condos in Foggy Bottom, I see and hear about a much different neighborhood. I see one of the finest urban neighborhoods in the country. I

see well-maintained buildings and homes. I see beautiful landscaping and refreshing little islands of green in unexpected places.

I hear my older members say they feel safe when walking to the Safeway during the day (something older people do not feel in many parts of this city). I see young people riding bikes, roller blading, walking hand in hand, sitting on a park bench studying. I see construction, the sign of economic vitality. I see healthy churches, an energetic GW Hillel, a growing Muslim Friday prayer service. I see children from local day care centers. I see homeless people being helped by those fortunate enough to have homes. I see a university with a rising national reputation. I see performers on their way to the Kennedy Center. In short, I see a healthy, viable, invigorating neighborhood.

All neighborhoods have problems. And we must deal with those problems together (we will not deal with them by casting blame). However, the good so far outweighs the bad in this neighborhood that we must be a grateful, thankful people.

John Wimberly

Pastor

Western Presbyterian Church

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## Foggy Bottom News

The *Foggy Bottom News* is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

Editor ..... Ellie Becker  
Ad Manager..... Steve Timlin  
Ad Billing ..... Ilona Melstrads

All announcements, letters, articles are welcome but must be typed double spaced. Please include an evening phone number. Send to:

### FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

c/o West End Library  
24th & L Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037

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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

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Sat. Dec. 8	CHRISTMAS IN VIRGINIA (Leesburg 9am-6pm) Morn. tour of MORVEN PARK (1780), beautiful Greek Revival style mansion. After lunch in Leesburg, time to browse before a visit to an unusual winery for a wine-tasting	\$70*
Sun. Dec. 15	"Cinderella" (Olney Th. 1:30pm-6pm) For the holidays, a magical ROGERS & HAMMERSTEIN musical	\$50**

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Sat. April 12 Barnes Art Collection (Phila)  
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## The Becker Beat



To absolutely no one's surprise, I guess, last month's articles elicited responses with varying opinions. Another editorial appeared in the *Hatchet*, characterizing The Observer as The Cowardly Lying (as in a bastardized Wizard of Oz, sort of). It also used phrases such as "audacious," "nutty," and asked "what other experiments the aliens did to him or her."

Less strident, at least to this reader, was Erik Schelzig's later column, although he was certainly not in The Observer's corner either, hoping that The Observer doesn't live next door to him. In his opinion, The Ob-

server doesn't speak for Foggy Bottom as a whole, and admits that some student residents' "repeated inconsiderate behavior inspires such crass reactions."

I can't help but agree with his comment that "both extremes (need to) shape up a little and accept that we're in this together. . . ."

You have already seen or will see in this issue the reactions of two prominent individuals in our area, both of whom are ardent letter-writers. There were phone calls as well, some negative, some positive. I heard from Alice Tilton on K Street, Stanley Victor of Columbia Plaza, and a couple who did not

identify themselves. Maria Tyler felt The Observer did not give due weight to the many homeowners who keep their properties in spic-and-span condition and despite many difficulties keep them so attractive. In the case of Snows Court which The Observer singled out, most residents are model citizens who take pride in their historic and unique homes; it may well be that some of its problems stem from residents of adjoining streets, not Snows Court at all!

While the opinions of The Observer displeased some readers, we still feel it represents the opinions of more persons in FB than that one who wrote the article. The messy habits of some students can make our streets look unkempt and uncared for due to their neglect (devaluing our homes), and bring on visions of unwelcome "critters" invading our yards

and homes. Gentle requests to tidy up often seem to fall on deaf ears. Even when they are heard, we know it will have to be done again when a new batch moves in. It really can get tiresome. Tired or no, it has to be done,

it has to be faced, even if it's gain, and again. As I said earlier, the students are a part of our lives, and we need to work at helping them be the good citizens they either want or will want to be.

## CLASSIFIED

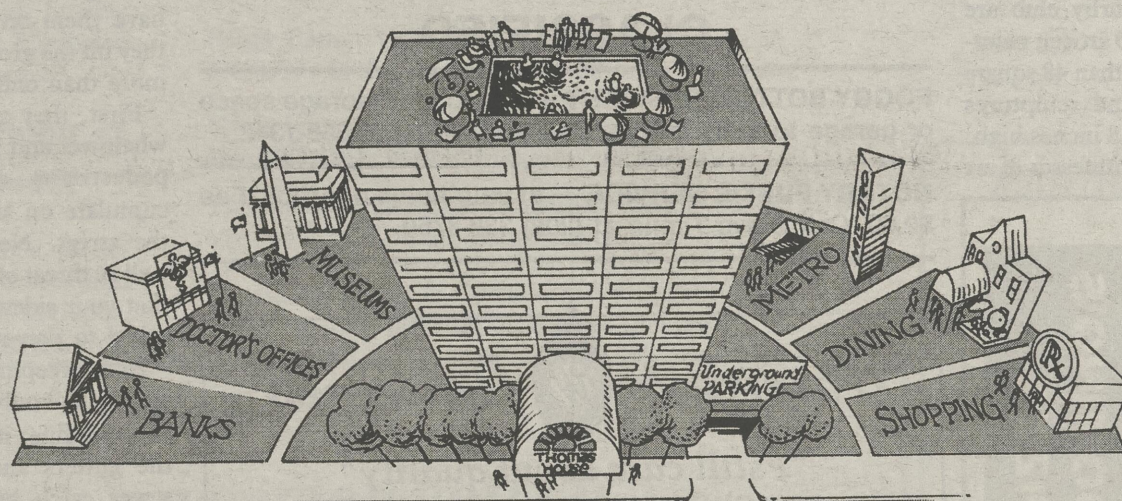
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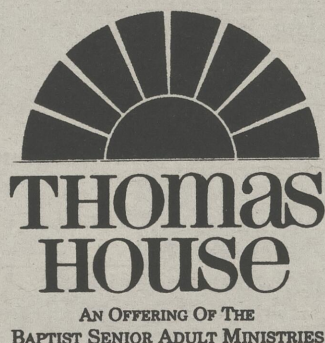


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## Library Friends End Successful Year

The West End Library Friends ended a successful year at their annual meeting on October 26.

Thanks to a 10% increase in membership, donations from 60% of its members, a highly successful book sale, and income from a bequest, the Friends were able to donate \$4,100 to the West End Library this year. The majority of this amount is used for books and periodicals.

Given the city's finances, the Friends hope to be able to maintain its assistance to the West End Library at the same or higher level in the coming year.

The present officers were re-elected for another term: Robert C. Brewster, President; Mary Lou Hennessy, Vice President; Lucille G. Duprat, Treasurer; and Grace E. Watson, Secretary.

The Friends are now having a membership drive. Dues are \$10 for the October 1, 1996 — September 30, 1997 membership year. There is a membership form in this issue of the *News*. Membership forms and checks should be sent to the Friends, c/o West End Library, 24th & L Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

## Plaza Resident, Maurita Jenks Dies

Maurita Williams Jenks, who resided at the Plaza, 800 25th Street, N.W., died October 22. Mrs. Jenks and her late husband, Thomas, were the first residents of the Plaza. Born in England, she was on the Board of the Daughters of the British Empire and was a member of the American Miniaturist Society. As an artist Mrs. Jenks worked in papier-mache, ceramics, oil and watercolors.

She is survived by a daughter, two stepdaughters, and six grandchildren. A memorial service was held October 26 at St. David's Episcopal Church in northwest D.C.

## Arts Club Hosts Miniature Exhibit

An exhibit of over 500 miniature works of art has opened at the Arts Club, presented by the International Miniature Painters, Sculptors, and Gravers Society of Washington, D.C. The exhibit remains open until Sunday, December 1. Displayed at the nearby club are works by over 250 artists; paintings are no larger than 48 square inches overall, and sculptures are no more than 8 inches high. Frank Wright, a professor of art



All lined up and posed in costumes are students at the Jumbo Nursery School.

The Griffin on 26th Street was the scene of a successful visit by the Natural Day Care tots.



at George Washington University, will judge the entries and select prize winners in all categories.

The Arts Club is located at 2017 Eye Street, N.W. and is closed on Mondays. Call 202-331-7282 for gallery hours.

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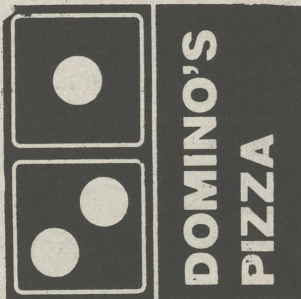
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## Tree Lighting December 18 at Columbia Hospital

Columbia Hospital for Women has invited friends and neighbors to the hospital's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Wednesday, December 18, at 5:30 p.m. Opening "A Season of Sharing and Caring," the festivities begin in the hospital lobby at 2425 L Street, N.W., and will include guest speakers, caroling, refreshments and holiday entertainment. Guests are asked to bring a wrapped gift, to be given to a child this season through the Coalition for the Homeless, labeled with the child-appropriate age and sex on the outside of the package. Call 293-2048 for more information on the fun and fellowship holiday event.

## Good Neighbor Tip Please Don't Leave Your Leaves

This is the season for leaves, and FB is not short of that commodity. While we're happy to have them on the trees, once they hit the ground they present more than one problem.

First, they are very slippery when wet and pose a danger to pedestrians when they accumulate on sidewalks and in the street. Neighborliness, as well as threat of liability, dictate that your sidewalk be swept or raked to prevent injury.

And sweeping them into the street is not only illegal and subject to a fine, it causes clogs in the gutters and stops up the sewer catch basins. This can cause large puddles for people to cross and even water backups into yards and houses.

Be a good neighbor; don work gloves, and take hold of a broom or rake, and deal with the fall-out of fall.

## THE WEST END LIBRARY

serves the communities of West End, Foggy Bottom and Dupont Circle. The West End Library Friends is a local non-profit organization which exists to support the Library, primarily through collection of funds to buy books and other needed articles. Please join with us to ensure the West End Library remains a vigorous and vital part of our community.

## WEST END LIBRARY FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP Dues Year Ending 9/30/97

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## DAR Museum Celebrates Pioneer Women

A major exhibition, **Bound for the West: Women and Their Families on the Western Trails**, has opened at the DAR Museum. **Bound for the West** is the first exhibit in the history of the DAR Museum to focus on the nineteenth-century women who moved west to start new lives. Focusing on pioneers who followed the Oregon Trail, through diaries, letters, quilts and clothing the Museum presents the daily lives of women along the trail. Included is a Virginia Freight Wagon which represents the mode of transport most pioneers used.

A special section is dedicated to the Madonna of the Trail, a project sponsored by the DAR in the 1920s. This series of statues marks significant stopping points on the route west. One such statue is on the outskirts of Washington, D.C.

The museum is located at 1776 D Street, N.W., and it is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays and Sunday from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Admission free; donations accepted.

## Campaign Exhibit at Heurich House

"Campaign Buttons to Inaugural Balls," is a new exhibit featuring original photographs, programs, ball invitations,

dance cards, parade tickets and other mementoes from a range of presidential administrations. From an 1829 invitation for Andrew Jackson's inaugural reception to anticipated festivities in 1997, the exhibit illustrates how Washington continues to occupy center stage for this national celebration. The social festivities are shown in invitations, programs, dinner menus and dance cards. The role of Washington's private citizens — barred from voting in Presiden-

tial elections until 1961 — is illuminated through campaign committee rosters. The exhibit by the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. continues through March 8 and is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$3; and \$1.50 for seniors and students. The Heurich House Museum is located at 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. For further information call 202-785-2068.

## Get In The Pink

Show that pink FBA membership card, save money, and support some savvy and generous local merchants. Following is a list of discounts available to FBA members, just for the showing of the 1996-97 membership card. Some bucks off certainly won't hurt, especially during the holiday season!

Casillas Press, 1717 K Street, N.W.  
223-1220; 15% off all printing

Donatello Restaurant, 2514 L Street, N.W.  
333-1485; 10% off dinner Monday-Thursday

Flowers by Sandra, 23rd & Virginia Avenue, N.W.  
in the Columbia Plaza Mall  
333-0692; 10% on flowers

Foggy Bottom Cafe, 924 25th Street, N.W.  
338-8707; 15% discount after 8:00 p.m. for dinner

Magic Gourd Restaurant, 528 23rd Street, N.W.  
466-3995; 10% discount on lunch or dinner

The Shiro-Ya Japanese Restaurant, 2512 L Street, N.W.  
659-9449; 15% off all dinner entrees

Watergate Gallery & Frame, 2552 Virginia Avenue, N.W.  
338-4488; 10% discount on custom framing

## Holiday Services in Foggy Bottom

### Tuesday, December 24

St. Mary:	6:00 p.m.	Eucharist, Sermon and Carols
	10:30 p.m.	Festive Eucharist with sermon and choir (followed by reception)
St. Paul:	6:00 p.m.	Children's Service of Lessons and Carols and Blessing of the Creche
	10:30 p.m.	Messe de Minuit Noel (Charpentier); Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck) (followed by Wassail Party)
St. Stephen:	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Music Festival with Carols
	5:30 p.m.	Christmas Vigil Mass with Choir (followed by Christmas Social)
United:	5:00 p.m.	German Candlelight Service
	6:30 p.m.	English Candlelight Service

### Wednesday, December 25

St. Mary:	10:00 a.m.	Eucharist with Sermon and Music Lorenzo Smith, Tenor Soloist Julius Tilghman, Organist
St. Paul:	8:00 a.m.	Low Mass of the Dawn
	10:30 a.m.	Process and Solemn Mass of the Day Missa ad Praesepe (Malcolm) In the bleak midwinter (Darke)
St. Stephen:	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass
	11:30 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass
	1:00 p.m.	Christmas Day Mass
	5:30 p.m.	Christmas Day Mass

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# Foggy Bottom Folks

It was a lovely wedding indeed. **Barbara Barski** and **Milton Carrow** exchanged meaningful and unique marriage vows on Saturday, November 2, at the Arts Club. They were surrounded by many relatives and friends, including their "Cupid," Betty Friedan.

Watergate Safeway supervisors **Nadine** and **Sherrie** sent their "thank you" to both the Foggy Bottom Association and the West End Citizens Association for signing a card for **Phyllis Veney**. The "Glad Your Operation's Over" card was crowded with names of well-wishers for the longtime Safeway cashier who is home recovering. She is expected back in early January.

Eye Street's loss is Potomac Plaza's gain, as longtime resident **Morella Hansen** "trades" her most attractive townhouse for what we know is a most attractive coop apartment at Potomac Plaza.

Just a block away, Columbia Plaza's **Murray Nimmo** "trades" an apartment at Columbia Plaza for a townhouse in the 2500 block.

We have not heard yet about an actual moving date, due to

some renovations he is making to the house, but we guess it will be within a couple of months.

Happened to meet **Dr. Joe Speidel** on K Street not long ago, hurrying to an appointment, but did have a few moments to get caught up. Joe and his family lived on Eye Street for many years, and we learned that he is now living in California.

**Darrell Diamond** is a GWU student who currently is assisting our friend "Q" with his Student Association efforts at community relations. Darrell is also a member of Lambda Chi which held its second annual food drive in early November. The drive, to benefit the Healthy Baby Project, collected 2510 pounds of food, 400 more than last year, and just topping their goal of 2500 pounds. The fraternity collected food at the L Street and Georgetown Safeway stores, and left collection bags at homes in the FB community. A highlight, Darrell told us, was a tour of the Project's facilities at the conclusion of the food collection. Backing the drive as co-sponsors and participants were the GW Resident Hall Association, the

Newman Catholic Student Center, Sigma Kappa Sorority, Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity, and corporate sponsor, Safeway Supermarkets. Well done, all!

The same day as the food collection was taking place, GW students participated in another HUGE collection. It was the second big Foggy Bottom Clean-up, sponsored by the Student Association, the Program Board, the Marvin Center Governing Board, the Neighbors Project, and the Green University.

Sites selected this year were 27th Street between K and I, various Whitehurst Freeway areas, the banks of Rock Creek, and several leaf-raking assignments near the homes of elderly residents. Well over 100 students crowded the Marvin Center Ballroom early that Saturday morning, quickly took care of the bagels and cream cheese provided, and went off in various groups, spending the morning on their projects. Helpers from the community were in short supply, but that may have been the result of the *FBNews*' running the wrong Student Association ad, and too little time at the FBA meeting



to invite community involvement. While President Trachtenberg may not have sent the students out (as trumpeted recently by the Hatchet), his employees did make many, many bags of leaves and trash disappear, and both students and administration deserve a tip of the hat.

Crime in D.C. is no respecter of persons, exemplified by the bold snatching of the purse of Supreme Court Justice **Ruth Ginsburg**. The justice was returning from Kennedy Center to her Watergate home, accompanied by her husband and daughter, when the purse was grabbed and the thief made an escape. Several days later **Mel Maeda**, during his usual pocket park cleaning, spied the purse near 26th and Eye. He first called the Metropolitan Police, then the Secret Service, which responded almost momentarily with seven, count them, seven patrol cars. And later on a Supreme Court security officer became involved as well.

## December 1996-January 1997 Security Patrol Discussed at FBA Meeting

Residents of the Foggy Bottom Historic District are continuing their efforts to establish a security guard patrol to help combat crime. Additional interest was generated at a discussion of the proposed program during the Foggy Bottom Association's meeting on October 28. Several neighborhood hotels and businesses have already pledged their support for the program. For more information, Call Paul Falon or Carol Mitchell at (202) 337-8281.

## Local Calls Help Whitman-Walker

From now through the end of December, at no cost to you, Bell Atlantic will donate 1% of your local residential telephone charges to the Whitman-Walker Clinic. This D.C. facility is dedicated to assisting people with HIV and AIDS. To register for the program (called "Community Threads"), call 1-800-334-BELL. You get an automated response which is a series of queries; it is quite simple and probably can be done at any hour.

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## Foggy Bottom Profile: *Benita Belden*

By Claire Cifci

The year was 1932. Young, energetic Benita Belden arrived in Washington, D.C. to be with Aunt Viola and Uncle Julian Bolling. That first home was at 2923 Macomb Street, N.W. It was little known that Uncle Julian was the brother of Mrs. Woodrow Wilson. In 1935, Benita became a Foggy Bottom resident when she left her aunt's home to begin her first job and moved to 2021 Eye Street, N.W. She was employed by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation until it closed.

It was inevitable to seek a Federal government position and Benita then worked with the Selective Service division which drafted men into the armed forces. Following government retirement, she worked parttime in Dr. Bob's office. After seven years Benita retired to tend to business. Nearly every morning she went with fellow investors to a White Tower for coffee and conferencing.

During the great reconstruction period of Foggy Bottom, Benita and Sara Reese purchased the house at 921 Hughes Mews in 1955. The small house was shared with Dusty, their pet Sheltie. Ms. Belden laughingly



relates their problem with the bank which refused to grant the mortgage loan.

(Wouldn't that bank spin on its foundation if it knew that by 1962 Benita would own four homes in Hughes Mews?)

Uncle Julian died that same year so Benita spent the following years extending loving care and companionship to her lonely, widowed Aunt Vi, more so as Aunt Viola became semi-invalid. During the February blizzard, Benita was summoned to her aunt's bedside. She kissed Benita and told her how much she loved her. Aunt Vi died that night.

Benita learned at the reading of the will that Aunt Viola Bolling left her niece the bulk of her

### Foggy Bottom News

estate, including the house on Macomb Street. That house was subsequently rented since Ms. Belden chose to live in her little house in the Mews.

She describes the surroundings just below the Mews as Shantytown, U.S.A. Undeveloped land and trees were the view out the windows. A few shacks stood beyond the still present garage; "out-houses" flanked the shacks. Benita tells of shooting craps with some of the shack residents.

Constant changes invigorated the scene all over Foggy Bottom. Back then, as now, turbulence from the District government and George Washington University disturbed the peace. Benita was, and is, a staunch supporter of any civic advancement in Foggy Bottom. She was a generous contributor to the Murray Fund (which paid for legal fees needed by the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association), as well as a member in good standing of the present association.

Just a few feet from the Belden-Roose front door was a dilapidated house numbered



923. A Mr. Marvin Moeller purchased the wreck and began restoring it himself. He deferred painting over the lovely antique bricks. But the present owner didn't think twice about painting it a distinctive blue. You guessed it! Mrs. Benita Belden is the owner today.

The row of small houses in the Mews has had many changes of resident owners. Benita and Sara were soon the longest in-residence owners. They became a pipeline to references of reputable handymen. They spread the word to their neighbors to call Harry Offenbecker when they needed

firewood. If you needed a plumber or a painter, you just called Benita and Sara.

The busy ladies were always on the go — often went on trips accompanied by their "royal" pet, Dusty. Many remember the scary outcome of Dusty's gourmet palate after he devoured an entire box of bonbons. Recovered, he was put on a restricted diet. Both Sara and Benita took leave from work during another major illness Dusty acquired several years later when that virus caused erratic gastric upsets, the girls were on hand to protect the rugs. But he was their "life" and a few years later, after a long and happy dog life, beloved Dusty was put to sleep of necessity.

Through all these years, Benita has had her card-playing, cigarello-smoking nephew, Bob Hallbrook, visit every week to gamble and blow smoke. Bob said his Aunt Benita taught him to play cards when he was five years old. Another nephew, Eugene, lives in California and of course visits less often.

Only her unusual inner strength sustained Benita when her roommate and best friend, Sara, died in 1977.

It must have been "ordained"



that Beth Fountain needed a house to rent when she arrived in D.C. and 911 Hughes Mews was vacant. Their close friendship, many trips, and Beth's devotion to Benita kindled the latter's motivation once again. But recurring debilitating virus infections made the care and upkeep of the house too strenuous for Benita alone.

In June, 1995 Benita and Beth moved out of Hughes Mews to share a large house in Arlington. The little house, #921, was sold to Edward L. Peck, an absentee owner.

Along with Benita and Beth in the Arlington house is Bobby, Beth Fountain's adopted son, and two canines: Truffles, a Lakeland terrier, and Cinnamon, a whippet.

Virginia's gain is our loss. Benita ended a forty-year residency in Hughes Mews for a total of sixty-two years in Foggy Bottom. It is a sad and strange sight to see the new tenants come or go in and out of 921. Benita still owns two houses in the row and remains a respected force in all decisions. Good luck to you, Benita. We will miss you, and look forward to seeing you around the Mews on future visits.

### Postmenopausal Women Needed For Research Study

The Division of Hematology-Oncology and Exercise Science Program at GWUMC are conducting a study looking at the effects of a 6-month cardiovascular exercise program on risk factors for heart disease. Women will be chosen by chance to be in either an immediate start or a delayed (6 months) start group. Must not currently exercise.

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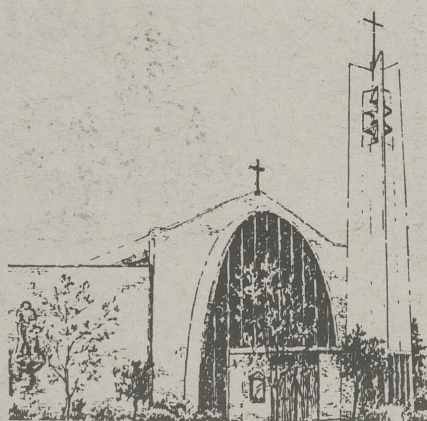
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**Hospital, continued from p.1**

But there is always that tinge of doubt, and Mr. Davenport believes the best way to curb this is for the hospital to keep its employees informed of the decision-making process with OrNda.

"The quicker the information is given, the quicker the insecurities of the what's happening will disappear," said Mr. Davenport.

The greatest concern for most hospital employees is still job security even though their jobs have been protected so far. "Knowing that the health care plan will be intact (and) no more downsizing" is top priority, according to Mr. Davenport.

And what he asks most of OrNda is that they "give the present employees a chance to show what they can do before any drastic decisions."

Mr. Davenport believes that GW hospital employees embody the "greatest job skills and devotion." In order to preserve this, he wants OrNda to "please be careful about any steps you take."

"The hospital is only going to be as good as its employees," he says.

But besides the future of the hospital itself, the GW Medical School, the 11th oldest in the nation, was one of the main factors that motivated the University to seek this partnership with OrNda.

"No academic medical center can stand alone in the current health care marketplace," said Allen B. Weingold, M.C., vice president and executive dean of the GW Medical Center.

"As part of the rigorous criteria applied to selecting a partner, GW insisted upon securing the future of the medical school. We have done that with this arrangement," said Dr. Weingold.

Garrett Peel, 20, is a junior at GWU and an aspiring health care policy administrator. As a pre-med student, Mr. Peel believes that the actions taken by the University are "synonymous with a lot of turmoil in the health care system."

But Mr. Peel believes that, overall, the actions taken "can only benefit the school and the hospital itself," primarily in the area of renovations, technological advances, and academic development. "Overall, I think its a positive thing and a step in the right direction," said Mr. Peel.

"It can only be beneficial because they (the students) can see a change in the system that is happening throughout the country, first hand," Mr. Peel replied when asked whether this new joint partnership will affect the morale of GW medical students.

With this new merger unfolding between OrNda and the university, repercussions to the surrounding community will

likely follow as well. According to Mr. Davenport, the relationship between the community and the hospital has been strong.

"It has been the focal point of a lot of things. It has certainly been a rock. And will continue to be that way too," he said.

In order to ensure the positive relationship and rapport between the two, Mr. James said the University and OrNda will work diligently to keep the residents informed.

"We will work hand in hand with the Foggy Bottom community because we realize how important we are to them and how important they are to us."

Currently the University and OrNda are at a point of negotiations and hammering out the details of the partnership. "We've gotten engaged to OrNda but not married yet," said Mr. James. Once the deal has been finalized, the University, the hospital and OrNda will actively

December 1996-January 1997



seek the opinions and concerns of the Foggy Bottom community. This act will be pursued through the use of town hall meetings.

"We're going to do a lot of public outreach," said Mr. James. "We will do everything on our part to make information available," he concluded.

## Neighborhood Datebook

**Monday, November 25:** Foggy Bottom Association meeting, with speakers from the D.C. government. Wyndham Bristol Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., 7:30 p.m.

**Through Sunday, December 1:** Exhibit of miniature art, sponsored by the International Miniature Painters, Sculptors, and Gravers Society. Arts Club of Washington, 2017 Eye Street, N.W. Call 202-331-7282 for hours. (See article elsewhere in this issue.)

**Wednesday, December 4:** Seminar on Estate Planning, Living Trusts and Wills, sponsored by the Women's National Democratic Club Educational Foundation, 1526 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. Reservations required; call 232-7363; fax: 986-2791. \$10.00; light refreshments. 6:00 p.m.

**Through Wednesday, December 4:** Annual Student Show, GWU Dimock Gallery, located in the lower lobby of Lisner Auditorium, 21st & H Streets, N.W. Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and some Saturdays in conjunction with special university events.

**Thursday, December 5-Monday, December 30:** Annual Traditional holiday decorations and programs presented by the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. Included are decorations, food and music of a festive German-style Christmas Eve, as well as new events and a new exhibit for children and special tours for visitors of all ages. (See Datebook for individual events, and article elsewhere in this issue.)

**Friday, December 6:** GW University Singers Winter Concert & Messiah Sing-Along, Catherine Pickar, conductor, and Laura Marchisotto, accompanist. Western Presbyterian Church, 24th & L Streets, N.W. Call 202-994-6245 for tickets. 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, December 8:** GW University Symphony Orchestra concert, with Desi Alston conducting. Dorothy Betts Marvin Theatre, 800 21st Street, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

**Monday, December 9:** Arts Project Renaissance workshop on writing holiday poems and pieces. St. Mary's Court, 725 24th Street, N.W. Free to those over 55. Call Mary Quat-

tlebaum, 202-362-5621 for information; Margaret Pully, 202-223-5712 to register.

**Saturday, December 11:** Victorian Christmas Traditions, illustrated lecture by Candace Shireman, Historical Society curator, about the Christian Heurich family and other turn-of-the century Washingtonians' observance of the holidays. Admission is \$5 for members, \$7 for non-members. 12:00 noon.

**Thursday, December 12-Friday, January 21:** Landscapes of Corfu, exhibition of painted landscape views of Corfu, Greece, by two classes given by GW and the Art League of Alexandria, Virginia. Dimock Gallery, lower lobby of Lisner Auditorium, 21st & H Streets, N.W. Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and some Saturdays in conjunction with special events.

**Wednesday, December 18:** Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, Columbia Hospital for Women, 2425 L Street, N.W. Bring wrapped child's gift for distribution via Coalition for the Homeless. Call 292-2048 for information; see article elsewhere in this issue. 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 19:** Annual Christmas Party, St. Mary's Court, 725 - 24th Street, N.W. Dinner, 4:00-6:00 p.m., followed by caroling and other activities.

**Thursday, December 19:** Children's Holiday Concert, with the Sargent Memorial Presbyterian Church's Children Choir (grades three through six) performing holiday favorites from past and present. Historical Society of D.C., 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, December 21:** Corky's Holiday Circus, a children's marionette show by Brown's Puppet Troup featuring holiday characters and circus performers on the trapeze and in other acts seldom seen in puppet theater. \$10 for members; \$12 for non-members; \$5 for seniors, students and children. For information call 202-785-2068. Historical Society of Washington, D.C., 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. 2:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 25:** Festive Holiday Buffet, St. Mary's Court, 725 - 24th Street, N.W. Space is limited; for reservations call 223-5712. \$10 per person. 4:00-6:00 p.m.

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